

HACKERSPACES IN SPACE

The Second Annual Space Balloon Competition

RULES AND GUIDELINES



SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 - NOVEMBER 28, 2011

Caution/Disclaimer

(This is taken from the <http://space.1337arts.com/> website)

Launching things into the stratosphere can be DANGEROUS! Please contact the FAA (or your respective government body that regulates air traffic) before trying any launches (even if they are under 4 lbs.) to make sure your vehicle won't be entering restricted airspace and PLEASE check the University of Wyoming's [Balloon Trajectory Predictor](#) (or a similar website) to make sure you balloon won't be landing in the city/a populated area where it might cause significant damage. Also, be sure to test your balloon's terminal velocity for descent before launching to make sure it's within a safe range.

Competition

Rules

- Build teams can be of any size but only 10 people are allowed for the launch and retrieval team.
- Payload must be under 4 pounds (~1.814kg).
- Parts cost limit of \$250.00. Must show receipts or have other proof of purchase. The lesser of MSRP or average value of closed ebay actions will be used to estimate cost on any items without a receipt.
- Payload must return with pictures taken from the flight.
- Only one official launch per team allowed. Notice of official launches must be given at least 24 hours in advance of launch.
- All local laws and ordinances must be followed throughout the entire competition.
- Balloon camera must take pictures of the curvature of the earth with black space backdrop (See cover page photo).

Scoring

- Retrieval Time Based on time of balloon launch to recovery. Fastest gets 50 points, next gets 45, and so on.
- Weight of Payload 5 points added for every 1/2 pound under 4 lb.
- Cost of Setup Base: 50 points. 0.5 points off for every dollar over \$150.
- Design Documentation 100 points. Keep a wiki as a design notebook, submit a bill of materials and assembly instructions. The best designs will be reconstructed by students!
- Total Points Retrieval Time Score + Weight Score + Cost Score + Design Documentation



Dates

- Competition starts immediately upon challenges going out.
- Register at www.hackerspacesinspace.com starting September 26, 2011
- Launches will be held between October 3, 2011 and November 28, 2011.
- Results of the official launch must be sent in by December 2, 2011.
- Winner will be announced on or before December 16, 2011.